



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Elections in Moldova**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
March 10, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We concur with the preliminary assessment of Moldova's March 6 parliamentary elections issued by the OSCE and its partners in the International Election Observation Mission. We are pleased that the observation mission concluded that the elections generally complied with most OSCE commitments and other international standards. However, we regret that they fell short of meeting some that are central to a genuinely competitive election process.

We note that the OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe's Venice Commission issued joint recommendations in July 2004 to Moldova on improving election legislation and administration. Some of these recommendations were originally issued as far back as 2001.

We call upon Moldova to take immediate steps to implement OSCE and Council of Europe recommendations in order to ensure future free and fair elections, and we urge Moldova to take up the offers of assistance that the OSCE and other international organizations extended in the International Election Observation Mission's preliminary findings.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.